

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-14

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INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6607

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I, APRIL 17, 1973

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL DANANG BEING REPEATED

QUOTE

DANANG 410

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJ: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I, X PLUS 79,

APRIL 17, 1973

1. MILITARY SITUATION:

ACTIVITY IN MR I REMAINED FAIRLY LOW WITH 25 INCIDENTS REPORTED, OF WHICH 20 WERE ATTACKS BY FIRE(ABF' S). IN THE 1 ST DIV AO WEST OF HUE, 15 ABF' S OCCURRED WITH 517 ROUNDS, INCULDING 34 ARTILLERY. TOTAL FRIENDLY CAUSALTIES WERE 9 KIA AND 54 WIA, CONTINUING A HIGH TREND IN WOUNDED DUE IN LARGE PART TO MINES. ENEMY LOSSES: 18 KIA AND 12 CAPTURED. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED 1715 ROUNDS, 1006 NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS (MOST OF WHICH WAS COUNTER- BATTERY FIRE IN THE 1 ST DIV AO) AND 709 SOUTH. I CORPS INTELLIGENCE AGAIN REPORTED CONSIDERABLE TRUCK TRAFFIC IN THE SOUTHERN A SHAU VALLEY, WITH 70 TRUCKS SIGHTED ON APRIL 16.

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WM ICCS:

POLOFF QUANG NGAI REPORTS THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL FOUR CHIPDELS OF THE CHU LAI SUB- REGION ICCS TEAM VISITED QUANG NGAI APRIL 15 TO CONTINUE THEIR INVESTIGATION OF THE MARCH 25 INCIDENT IN WHICH COMMUNIST FORCES FIRED ON A VNAF CHINOOK RETURNING JUST- RELEASED ARVN PW' S (REF DANANG 392 AND 278). THE ICCS DELEGATION WAS TAKEN TO THE HAMLET IN MO DUC DISTRICT FROM WHICH GVN OFFICIALS BELIEVE THE SHOTS WERE FIRED. THE HUNGARIANS AGAIN TOOK THE INVESTIGATORY LEAD WITH POINTED QUESTIONING OF LOCAL OFFICIALS AND IN- HABITANTS.

3. COMMUNIST MILITARY ACTIVITIES:

A. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM I CORPS FORWARD HDQTRS BY POLOFF HUE, FIRE SUPPORT BASE (FSB) SALLY (BINH MINH YD6327), ABOUT 12 KMS NORTHWEST OF HUE, RECEIVED ONE GROUND ATTACK AND ABF' S OF 50 ROUNDS OF 122 ARTILLERY AND 436 ROUNDS OF MIXED MORTAR FIRE ON APRIL 15. FSB SALLY IS DEFENDED BY ELEMENTS OF THE 3 RD REGT, 1 ST DIV. THIS IS THE THIRD MAJOR INCIDENT IN A ONE- WEEK PERIOD IN THIS AREA, WHICH FORMS THE BASE SIDE OF A TRIANGULAR- SHAPED SYSTEM OF INFILTRATION ROUTES POINTED AT THE AN LO BRIDGE BETWEEN PHONG DIEN AND HUONG TRA DISTRICTS (REF DANANG 393 AND 385).

B. POLOFF QUANG NGAI REPORTS THAT COMMUNIST FORCES ARE MOUNTING INCREASINGLY STRONGER RESISTANCE TO GVN CLEARING OPERATIONS FOUR KMS EAST OF MO DUC DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS. THE ENEMY HAS BEGUN SERIOUSLY ATTACKING TERRITORIAL FORCES OPERATING TO CLEAR UP TRADITIONAL GUERRILLA BASE AREAS IN ORDER TO PREPARE THE AREA FOR THE RESETTLEMENT OF THREE TO FOUR THOUSAND PEOPLE. POLOFF QUANG NGAI ALSO REPORTS THAT ARVN INTELLIGENCE IS AWARE OF VC PLANS TO TAKE FURTHER STRONG ACTION TO PREVENT THE ARVN FROM EXPANDING INTO CONTESTED FRINGE AREAS AND TRADITIONAL ENEMY BASE AREAS. BROWN UNQUOTE
BUNKER

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